

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0051] A complex adaptive routing system and method for routing data packets in a nodal network, in particular, an ad-hoc nodal network. Each data packet contains data representing its routing strategy for routing to a destination node. When a node receives the data packet, it executes an agent program to determine the best route for routing the data packet to its destination node based on the routing strategy and other factors, such as the current conditions of the nodes and paths to the nodes. The agent program updates the strategy data in the data packet, as well as the routing table of the node, before the node sends the data packet to the next node in the selected route. The system and method therefore enables the data packet routing decisions to be dynamically adapted to changing conditions in the network.